

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The non-final office action dated June 4, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on April 30, 2001.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the current application. Applicant adds new claims 7-15 to provide alternative coverage for Applicant's invention in the claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,175,396 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"). Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,353 to Yarita et al. (hereinafter "Yarita").

The rejection of claims 1-6 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-5 are allowable over the cited references in that independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one shaft member installed at the main frame to fix the optical sheets". None of the cited references including Kim and Yarita, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from Kim in that in Kim the shaft 40 does not fix the optical sheets 3. Kim specifically discloses that "member 50 prevents the sheets 3 from being overly pressed by the third head 41" (Kim, column 9, line 66 through column 7, line 1). Furthermore, Kim makes clear that "a small gap exists between the sheets 3 and the third head 41 so that movement of the sheets is not restricted" (Kim, column 9, lines 17-19). Because of this gap between the sheets 3 and the third head 41, the sheets are not fixed. Furthermore, Yarita does not disclose or suggest "one shaft member ...

to fix the optical sheets” as recited by claim 1. Claims 2-5, as well as new claims 7-11, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

Claim 6 is allowable over the cited references in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, “optical sheets included in the backlight assembly having holes therein configured to affix to the shaft”. None of the cited references including Kim and Yarita, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 6 of the present invention is different from Kim in that the shaft 40 does not fix the optical sheet 3 in the manner required by the claim as discussed above. Furthermore, Yarita does not disclose or suggest “optical sheets...configured to affix to the shaft” as recited by claim 6. New claims 12-15 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claim 6, and claims 2-5 and 7-11 and claims 12-15, which depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.


If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please

credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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